



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Congress unveils \$1.2 trillion plan to avert federal shutdown and bring budget fight to a close

By KEVIN FREKING
 Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers introduced a \$1.2 trillion spending package Thursday that sets the stage for avoiding a partial government shutdown for several key federal agencies this weekend and allows Congress, nearly six months into the budget year, to complete its work funding the government through September. Democrats were able to swat back scores of policy mandates and some of the steeper budget cuts that House Republicans were seeking to impose on non-defense programs, though House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., highlighted some wins, including a nearly 24% increase in detention beds for migrants awaiting their immigration proceedings or removal from the country.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., meets with reporters to discuss efforts to pass the final set of spending bills to avoid a partial government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Associated Press
 Page 2

Continued on Page 2

For the BEST & the BIGGEST Steak
and so much more!

Lobby Bar Menu

FRIDAYS
2 FOR 1 Sangria

Lunch Special
EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM

\$28.90 +15%SC
TAX IS INCLUDED.

Local Deal
SATURDAY

15% OFF For Locals

Open daily from 11:30am - 11pm. Mondays Closed. Wilhelminastraat #80. Oranjestad, Aruba. Phone: +297 582-3677 • www.elgaucho-aruba.com

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM
 Full Service Bar
 Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com

Congress unveils \$1.2 trillion plan to avert federal shutdown and bring budget fight to a close

Continued from Front

This year's spending bills were divided into two packages. The first one cleared Congress two weeks ago, just hours before a shutdown deadline for the agencies funded through the bills.

Now Congress is focused on the second, larger package, which includes about \$886 billion for the Defense Department, a more than 3% increase from last year's levels. The 1,012-page bill also funds the departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Labor, and others. "Congress must now race to pass this package before government funding runs out this Friday," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. Nondefense spending will be relatively flat compared with the prior year, though some agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, are taking a hit, and many agencies will not see their budgets keep up with inflation.

When combining the two packages, discretionary spending for the budget year will come to about \$1.66 trillion. That does not include programs such as Social Security and Medicare, and financing the country's rising debt.

The House is expected to take the measure up first on Friday. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., urged Republicans to vote for the measure, noting that more than 70% of the spending goes to defense.

"At a time when the world's on fire, more than ever, we need to make sure that we are properly funding our nation's defense and supporting our troops," Scalise said.

Then it would move to the Senate where senators would have to agree on taking it up expeditiously to avoid a partial shutdown. Usually, such agreements include votes on proposed amendments to the bill. Johnson described the bill as a serious commitment to strengthening national defense while expanding support for those serving in the military. The bill provides for a 5.2% pay increase for service



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., right, smiles as he is joined by, from left, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., as they attend a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony for surviving members of a top-secret WWII unit, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Associated Press

members.

In promoting the bill, Republicans cited several ways it would help Israel. Most notably, they highlighted a prohibition on funding through March 2025 for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which is the main supplier of food, water and shelter to civilians in Gaza.

Republicans are insisting on cutting off funding to the agency after Israel alleged that a dozen employees of the agency were involved in the attack that Hamas conducted in Israel on Oct. 7. But the prohibition does concern some lawmakers because many relief agencies say there is no way to replace its ability to deliver the humanitarian assistance that the United States and others are trying to send to Gaza, where one-quarter of the 2.3 million residents are starving.

Democrats emphasized that humanitarian assistance will increase globally though, by about \$336.4 million.

Sen. Patty Murray, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, also highlighted a \$1 billion increase for Head Start programs and new child

care centers for military families. Democrats also played up a \$120 million increase in funding for cancer research and a \$100 million increase for Alzheimer's research.

"We defeated outlandish cuts that would have been a gut punch for American families and our economy," said Murray, D-Wash.

She also said Democrats successfully fought off numerous policy measures, known as riders, that House Republicans were seeking to add.

"From Day 1 of this process, I said there would be no extreme, far-right riders to restrict women's reproductive freedoms — and there aren't, she said.

Among the policy provisions that House Republicans did secure was a requirement that only allows for the American flag and "other official flags" to fly over U.S. diplomatic facilities. Under the Biden administration, U.S. embassies have been invited to fly the pride flag or light up with rainbow colors in support of the LGBTQ community.

There is also a provision that prevents the Consumer Product Safety Commission from banning gas stoves. But the

White House has said President Joe Biden would not support a ban, and the commission, an independent agency, says no such ban was in the works. The spending in the bill largely tracks with an agreement that former Speaker Kevin McCarthy worked out with the White House in May 2023, which restricted spending for two years and suspended the debt ceiling into January 2025 so the federal government could continue paying its bills. Shalanda Young, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, told lawmakers Thursday that last year's agreement, which became the Fiscal Responsibility Act, will save taxpayers about \$1 trillion over the coming decade.

McCarthy, R-Calif., was ousted from the speaker's role a few months after securing the debt ceiling deal. Eight Republicans ended up joining with Democrats in removing McCarthy as speaker. And some of those unhappy with that deal also expressed misgivings about the latest package. "I hope there will be some modest wins. Unfortunately, I don't expect that we will get much in the

way of significant policy wins based on past history and based on our unwillingness to use any kind of leverage to force policy wins, meaning a willingness to walk away and say no," said Rep. Bob Good, R-Va.

Work on the spending bills has been more bipartisan in the Senate. Murray issued a joint statement after the bill's release with Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, urging colleagues to vote for it.

"There is zero need for a shutdown or chaos — and members of Congress should waste no time in passing these six bills, which will greatly benefit every state in America and reflect important priorities of many senators," Murray and Collins said.

Johnson said that after the spending package passes, the House would next turn its attention to a bill that focuses on aiding Ukraine and Israel, though lawmakers are scheduled to be away from Washington for the next two weeks. The Senate has already approved a \$95.3 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, but Johnson has declined to bring that up for a vote. □

Nearly 8 in 10 AAPI adults in the US think abortion should be legal, an AP-NORC poll finds

By **GRAHAM LEE BREWER** and **AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With abortion rights poised to be one of the major issues in the 2024 election, a new poll shows that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States are highly supportive of legal abortion, even in situations where the pregnant person wants an abortion for any reason.

The poll from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that nearly 8 in 10 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders think abortion should be legal in all or most cases. They're also supportive of federal government action to preserve abortion rights: Three-quarters of AAPI adults say Congress should pass a law guaranteeing access to legal abortions nationwide. By comparison, an AP-NORC poll conducted last June found that 64% of U.S. adults think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and 6 in 10 U.S. adults overall say Congress should pass a law guaranteeing access.

AAPI adults are more likely than Americans overall to identify as Democrats, which may partially explain why



Protesters dressed as Abraham Lincoln chant during a Planned Parenthood rally in support of abortion access outside the U.S. Supreme Court, April 15, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

their levels of support for legal abortion are higher than among the general population. But even among Democrats, AAPI adults are more supportive of legal abortion later in pregnancy. AAPI Democrats are especially likely to support legal abortion without any limits more than half of this group say abortion should be legal in all cases, compared to 40% of Democrats overall.

AAPI Republicans are also more likely than Republi-

cans overall to support a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide. More than half (57%) of AAPI Republicans think abortion should be legal in at least some cases, compared to 38% of Republicans in general. About half (51%) of AAPI Republicans also think Congress should pass a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide, while only 32% of Republicans overall want this to happen. Although AAPI voters are a

fast-growing demographic with a particularly large presence in states like California, Texas and New York, their attitudes can often not be analyzed in other surveys because of small sample sizes, among other issues. This survey is part of an ongoing project focusing on AAPI Americans' views.

High turnout in areas with large AAPI communities could help Democrats in competitive House districts, and a broader conversation

about whether nonwhite voters are shifting to the right may lead to more courting of AAPI voters. The survey's findings suggest that abortion could be a strong issue for Democratic candidates who are looking to reach AAPI communities, and a challenge for Republicans. "It saddens me how politics got involved in this, and they really shouldn't have," said Debra Nanez, a 72-year-old retired nurse in Tucson, Arizona, and an Independent voter. Nanez identifies as Asian, Native American and Hispanic. "It's a woman's body. How can you tell us what we can do with our bodies, what we can keep and what we cannot keep? It's ridiculous."

While an AP-NORC poll conducted in October 2022 found that more than 4 in 10 Americans overall trust Democrats to do a better job of handling the issue of abortion, while only 2 in 10 have more trust in Republicans, the poll released Thursday shows that the trust gap between the parties is wider for AAPI adults. Fifty-five percent of AAPI adults trust Democrats on abortion policy, while only 12% trust Republicans.

More than half of AAPI adults were born outside the U.S., according to the survey. □

Federal officials want to know how airlines handle — and share — passengers' personal information

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials said Thursday they will review how airlines protect personal information about their passengers and whether they are making money by sharing that information with other parties. The U.S. Department of Transportation said its review will focus on the 10 biggest U.S. airlines and cover their collection, handling and use of information about customers.

"Airline passengers should have confidence that their personal information is not being shared improperly with third parties or mishandled by employees," Transporta-

tion Secretary Pete Buttigieg said.

A spokeswoman for the trade group Airlines for America said, "U.S. airlines take customers' personal information security very seriously, which is why they have robust policies, programs and cybersecurity infrastructure to protect consumers' privacy." In announcing the review, the Transportation Department did not make allegations against any of the carriers or cite any events that might have prompted the move. A spokesman said it is being done "proactively" to help the department determine how to protect pas-

sengers' information.

The department said it sent letters to each of the airlines — Delta, United, American, Southwest, Alaska, JetBlue, Spirit, Frontier, Hawaiian and Allegiant — about their procedures for collecting and using passenger information, including "monetization of passenger data, targeted advertising, and prevention of data breaches."

The agency also asked airlines if they have received complaints about employees or contractors mishandling personal information. Southwest said it discloses in its privacy policy that it "shares certain customer in-



A passenger waits for a Delta Airlines flight at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta on Feb. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

formation with select partners and third parties" but

gives customers the ability to opt out of sharing. □

Massachusetts Senate passes bill aimed at outlawing “revenge porn”

By **MICHAEL CASEY**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A Massachusetts bill that bars someone from sharing explicit images or videos without consent was approved unanimously Thursday by the Massachusetts Senate. The bill, which now goes to conference committee to hash out differences with the House, means only South Carolina has not banned “revenge porn.”

“With passage of this bill today we take another step towards closing a loophole in our laws that has caused pain, anguish, embarrassment, and a sense of helplessness to those survivors who for so long suffered in silence, without justice,” Democratic Sen. John Keenan, the sponsor of the Senate bill, said in a statement.

“I am deeply grateful to the those who shared their stories and advocated for change to ensure others would not have to suffer as they have,” he said. “For every case we know of, countless others remain hidden, so I hope passage of this legislation by the



The Massachusetts Statehouse is seen, Jan. 2, 2019, in Boston.

Senate will soon lead to the bill being signed into law by the Governor.” Sen. Paul Feeney, who recognized that several victims were the gallery during the debate, said the bill addresses the “embarrassment, helplessness and shame” that comes from learning that your explicit images were on a website and that there was nothing you could do legally to address it.

“Although it pains me that

we even have to deal with this, I am thrilled that we are here sending a message and showing residents of the commonwealth that we will no longer stand by as people are victimized and abused” he said. “Make no mistake about it, it is emotional and sexual abuse, and we are taking steps here today to send a message that we hear you.”

Minors who possess, pur-

chase, or share explicit photos of themselves or other minors can currently be charged with violating the state’s child pornography laws and are required to register as sex offenders. The bill would instead authorize commitment to the Department of Youth Services, but it also allows minors to be diverted to an educational program instead of criminal punishment. The diversion pro-

Associated Press

gram would teach teenagers about the legal and nonlegal consequences of sexting and would be available to school districts. The legislation would also address the nonconsensual distribution of explicit images by adults by establishing a penalty in the existing criminal harassment statute, including up to 2 1/2 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. The criminal ban would also extend to what are known as deep fake pornography, which use computer-generated images. Coercive control, which advocates describe as a pattern of deliberate behavior by an abuser that substantially restricts another person’s safety and autonomy, would also be added to the definition of abuse under the bill. Examples of coercive control include threatening to share explicit images, regulating or monitoring a family or household member’s communications and access to services, and isolating a family or household member from friends or relatives. □

U.S. surgeons transplant a gene-edited pig kidney into a patient for the first time

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Doctors in Boston have transplanted a pig kidney into a 62-year-old patient, the latest experiment in the quest to use animal organs in humans. Massachusetts General Hospital said Thursday that it’s the first time a genetically modified pig kidney has been transplanted into a living person. Previously, pig kidneys have been temporarily transplanted into brain-dead donors. Also, two men received heart transplants from pigs, although both died within months. The patient, Richard “Rick” Slayman of Weymouth,

Massachusetts, is recovering well from the surgery last Saturday and is expected to be discharged soon, doctors said Thursday.

Dr. Tatsuo Kawai, the transplant surgeon, said the team believes the pig kidney will work for at least two years. If it fails, Slayman



A pig kidney sits on ice, awaiting transplantation into a living human at Massachusetts General Hospital, Saturday, March 16, 2024, in Boston, Mass.

Associated Press

could go back on dialysis, said kidney specialist Dr. Winfred Williams. He noted that unlike the pig heart recipients who were very sick, Slayman is “actually quite robust.”

Slayman had a kidney transplant at the hospital in 2018, but had to go back on dialysis last year when it showed signs of failure. When dialysis complications arose requiring frequent procedures, his doctors suggested a pig kidney transplant, he said in a statement released by the hospital.

“I saw it not only as a way to help me, but a way to provide hope for the thousands of people who need a transplant to survive,”

said Slayman, a systems manager for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The transplant surgery took four hours, with 15 people in the operating room who cheered when the kidney started making urine, doctors said at a news conference.

Dr. Parsia Vagefi, chief of surgical transplantation at UT Southwestern Medical Center, called the announcement “a big step forward.”

But echoing the Boston doctors, he said studies involving more patients at different medical centers would be needed for it to become more commonly available. □

U.N. chief urges the EU to avoid 'double standards' over Gaza and Ukraine

By **LORNE COOK**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders were urged Thursday to show the same respect for international law in Gaza as they aim to uphold in Ukraine, as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians face dire food shortages and possible famine.

At an EU summit in Brussels, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the leaders to remain strong and united in their respect of standards enshrined in the United Nations Charter and international law.

"The basic principle of international humanitarian law is the protection of civilians. We must stick to principles in Ukraine as in Gaza without double standards," Guterres told reporters, standing alongside EU Council President Charles Michel, who chaired the summit.

A U.N. food agency has warned that "famine is imminent" in northern Gaza. Israel, meanwhile, appears



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, center, speaks with European Council President Charles Michel, left, and Austria's Chancellor Karl Nehammer during a round table meeting at an EU Summit in Brussels, Thursday, March 21, 2024.

determined to launch a ground offensive in the southern city of Rafah, where many people have sought refuge from the fighting.

The 27-nation EU has long been deeply divided in its approach to Israel and

the Palestinians, and the devastating Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 laid bare those differences. But as the death toll in Gaza mounts to nearly 32,000 people, more countries are supporting calls for a cease-fire.

In contrast, almost the entire bloc sees Russia's two-year long war on Ukraine as an existential threat. They've poured billions of euros into supporting the country, by providing it with arms and ammunition and helping to prop up its war-ravaged

Associated Press

economy."The response to the appalling crisis in Palestine has not been Europe's finest hour, quite frankly," said Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, whose country is among the strongest backers of the Palestinians.

"I think it has been undermining particularly of our efforts to defend Ukraine because so many countries in the global south also known as most of the world interpret Europe's actions in relation to Ukraine versus Palestine as double standards. I think they have a point," he said.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo described the events unfolding in Gaza as "dramatic."

"We see today people who are trying to feed themselves by eating grass. People who are on the verge of being in a famine. Europe needs to lead, and not to follow, and it is time for us to be clear: to demand an immediate ceasefire, to demand the liberation of the hostages," he told reporters. □

Afghanistan's school year starts without more than 1 million girls barred from education by Taliban

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The school year in Afghanistan started Wednesday but without girls whom the Taliban barred from attending classes beyond the sixth grade, making it the only country with restrictions on female education.

The U.N. children's agency says more than 1 million girls are affected by the ban. It also estimates 5 million were out of school before the Taliban takeover due to a lack of facilities and other reasons.

The Taliban's education ministry marked the start of the new academic year with a ceremony that female journalists were not allowed to attend. The invitations sent out to reporters said: "Due to the lack

of a suitable place for the sisters, we apologize to female reporters."

During a ceremony, the Taliban's education minister, Habibullah Agha, said that the ministry is trying "to increase the quality of education of religious and modern sciences as much as possible." The Taliban have been prioritizing Islamic knowledge over basic literacy and numeracy with their shift toward madrasas, or religious schools. The minister also called on students to avoid wearing clothes that contradict Islamic and Afghan principles. Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Taliban's deputy prime minister, said they were trying to expand education in "all remote areas in the country." The Taliban previously said girls continu-

ing their education went against their strict interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, and that certain conditions were needed for their return to school. However, they made no progress in creating said conditions. When they ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s, they also banned girls' education.

Despite initially promising a more moderate rule, the group has also barred women from higher education, public spaces like parks, and most jobs as part of harsh measures imposed after they took over following the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from the country in 2021.

The ban on girls' education remains the Taliban's biggest obstacle to gaining recognition as the legiti-

mate rulers of Afghanistan. Although Afghan boys have access to education, Human Rights Watch has criticized the Taliban, saying their "abusive" educational policies are harming boys as well as girls. The group, in a report published in December, said

there has been less attention to the deep harm inflicted on boys' education as qualified teachers including women left, and inclusion of regressive curriculum changes as well as an increase in corporal punishment have led to falling attendance. □



Afghan school girls attend their classroom on the first day of the new school year, in Kabul, Saturday, March 25, 2023.

Associated Press

Weeping, weak and soaked, dozens of Rohingya refugees rescued after night on hull of capsized boat

By **REZA SAIFULLAH and EDNA TARIGAN**
Associated Press
MEULABOH, Indonesia (AP)

— An Indonesian search and rescue ship on Thursday located a capsized wooden boat that had been carrying dozens of Rohingya Muslim refugees, and began pulling survivors who had been standing on its hull to safety.

An AP photographer aboard the rescue ship said 10 people had been taken aboard local fishing boats and another 59 were being saved by the Indonesian craft.

Men, women and children, weak and soaked from the night's rain, wept as the rescue operation got underway and people were taken aboard a rubber dinghy to the rescue boat.

There were contradictory reports about whether anyone had died in the accident, with survivors saying many who had been aboard when the boat departed from Bangladesh were still unaccounted for, but authorities insisted everyone had been rescued. "We have examined all 69 Rohingya that we rescued and from our examina-



Rohingya refugees stand on their capsized boat before being rescued in the waters off West Aceh, Indonesia, Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Associated Press

tion, there was no information from them about any deaths," Fathur, a rescue officer who gave only one name, told reporters. "We managed to evacuate all 69 people and no one stated that anyone had died." With the addition of six Rohingya who were rescued by private fishing boats that were at the scene well before authorities launched

the official rescue mission, a total of 75 people from the boat were saved. But Samira, a 17-year-old who was among the refugees from the Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh who had been traveling to Malaysia, said there had been 146 people on board, raising the prospect that 71 could still be missing at sea. She said the boat began

foundering three days ago and then capsized on Wednesday, adding that her nephew was among those unaccounted for. "All of us are very sad," she said. "We are very hungry and weak." When fishing vessels reached the scene on Wednesday, desperate refugees clamored aboard one of the boats, overload-

ing it and causing it to also capsize. It was not immediately clear what happened to the crew on board.

After being informed about the refugees in need of help by the fishermen Wednesday morning, an official search and rescue team set off from Banda Aceh city on Wednesday evening. They didn't reach the area of the accident until early in the morning and could not initially locate the capsized boat.

When they came upon it midday Thursday, they found the refugees on its hull, desperate for help.

They rescued 42 men, 18 women and nine children and took some to a temporary shelter in the Aceh Besar district and others to a local hospital for treatment. Amiruddin, a tribal fishing community leader in Aceh Barat district, said those rescued indicated that the boat was sailing east when it started leaking and then strong currents pushed it toward the west of Aceh.

About 740,000 Rohingya fled earlier to Bangladesh to escape a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by security forces in their homeland of Myanmar. □

Greek authorities overhaul wildfire response plans ahead of summer fire season

By **ELENA BECATOROS and LEFTERIS PITARAKIS**
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek authorities presented new plans Thursday for tackling wildfires which often ravage the country during its hot, dry summers, including changes in the deployment of firefighting aircraft and increased staffing in specialized forest firefighting units.

The new plans come after massive fires last year killed more than 20 people and decimated vast tracts of forest and farmland, including a blaze in northeastern Greece which raged out of control for about two weeks, growing into the

largest wildfire recorded in a European Union country since the European Forest Fire Information System began keeping records in

2000. The government has pointed to a changing climate and extreme weather that has included drier winters



Flames burn a forest in Vati village, on the Aegean Sea island of Rhodes, southeastern Greece on July 25, 2023.

Associated Press

and more frequent summer heatwaves as contributing to an increased risk of forest fires.

The new plans were presented by the head of the fire department, Lt. Gen. Theodoros Vagias, to coincide with International Day of Forests on March 21.

"This is a big fight for us. It's climate crisis, it's a time of need," Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Minister Vassilis Kikilias said, speaking at the presentation. "We're going to have a huge effort this summer to do the best of what we can do, to the best of our abilities, in order to be able to protect Greeks, protect tourists, protect their hous-

es, and protect, of course, the wildlife and our forests." The changes include having water-dropping aircraft take off in the initial stages of the outbreak of a wildfire instead of waiting for a request for air support from ground firefighting crews once the blaze has already spread, and having more fire trucks deploy in the initial stages of any wildfire. The number of specialized forest firefighting crews will increase from six to 16, including 10 that will be able to deploy rapidly by aircraft, while forestry units will be deployed on the ground with firefighters for better coordination during fires. □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic

5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the



Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these

two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the

social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and



descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

Free Sangria
WITH THIS COUPON
ACROBATIC
LIVE SHOW
Wed & Fri - 7pm-9pm

SHOW TICKETS
\$35 p/p
www.iccaua.com
Reservations:
+297 744 4059

Dutch Caribbean islands celebrate Earth Hour

This Saturday, governments, and companies on all six islands of the Dutch Kingdom will join forces for nature during WWF-Earth Hour. The lighting of bridges, buildings and streetlights at various locations will be switched off for one hour as a signal for the vulnerable nature that is threatened by climate change, among other things.

The World Wide Fund for Nature – Netherlands (WWF-NL) is the driving force behind Earth Hour in the Netherlands, but events are now being organized spontaneously throughout the country. WWF-NL approached governments and companies in the Dutch Caribbean to participate in Earth Hour, which



will take place worldwide on March 23 from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM local time. This call received massive support.

With the cooperation of Curaçao Ports Authority and Aquallectra, the area around Brionplein, the Queen Emma bridge, the Handelskade and the Governor's Palace will be dark. Government organizations on Aruba, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, energy company STUCO N.V. and telecommunications com-

pany Eutel N.V. will turn off the lights in their buildings. Port St. Maarten will disconnect the non-essential lights of the Causeway Bridge and Saba Electric Company is going to power down the streetlights in 3 parts of the island (Hell's Gate Guts, Well's Bay Road, and Fort Bay Road). WWF-NL also encourages the local community to join Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is an annual initiative of the international WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). The initiative started in Sydney in 2007 as a small-scale action to draw attention to climate change. In the years since, it has grown into the world's largest movement for the protection of nature. In addition to shutting down the lights, the nature organization encourages everyone to do something positive for nature for more than 60 minutes (hence the 60+ logo): for example, eat plant-based more often, recycle more, plant tree, etc. □

START YOUR DAY IN PARADISE

laguna

OPEN DAILY
7 – 11 AM

For reservations +297-526-6612

- Extensive Buffet
- Air-Conditioned Dining
- Your Favorite Breakfast Classics
- Wake-Up Cocktails
- Outdoor Terrace Dining
- A La Carte Breakfast Specialties

Hilton
ARUBA CARIBBEAN
RESORT & CASINO

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.



Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today

Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.

50/30
Friday!

We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players every
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe
Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique
Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa
Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors
The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | Curated Lab

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



FNPA is hosting another Full Moon Hike!

(Oranjestad)—Every month when the moon is full, the Aruba National Park Foundation hosts its monthly full moon hike for both members and non-members. This is your chance to join in on the fun, and take advantage of seeing the beautiful Aruban night sky!

crashing on the rocky shore lines.

Participants are expected to meet at the Baby Beach parkinglot at 6:15 pm this Monday, March 25th. The journey will cover 4.3 kilometers (2.6 miles) and is estimated to end around 9pm.

For this month's full moon event, the hike will start at the Baby Beach parkinglot, where participants will be led through Sero Colorado and the phosphate mine on the east coast. With the moon illuminating your way, you can have a chance to see a few constellations and bright stars shining in the night sky, while also enjoying the cool night breeze and the beautiful sound of waves

If you wish to participate, you can sign up for the event through this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/UPTwu4ar0k>, or contact the FNPA at (297) 585 1234 or e-mail, info@arubanationalpark.org for more info or questions. Spots are limited, so don't wait!

Picture credit: FNPA on Facebook.



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most

important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on

Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it

was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local

search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldmineranch.com.



Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

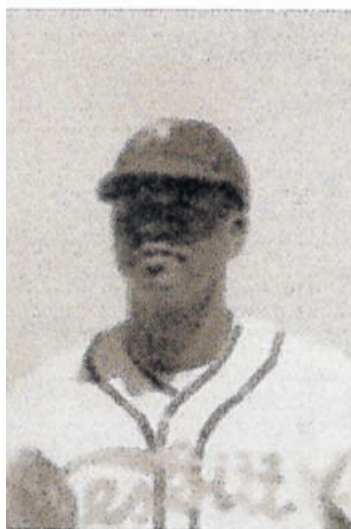
ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.



Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.



In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.



Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.



Luis Aparicio's father was

the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team



sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers". Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Se-

ries that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly use-

ful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation

in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the



first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up

with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at



the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on

the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for

big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 38 Once more
 - 1 Cattle spread
 - 6 Entrance hall
 - 11 Corn-husker city
 - 12 Goofy
 - 13 "Understand?"
 - 14 Flexes
 - 15 Quarter-back Manning
 - 16 "Evita" role
 - 18 Model buy
 - 19 2016 Olympics host
 - 20 That lady
 - 21 Genesis name
 - 22 Shop tool
 - 24 Title paper
 - 25 Hunting goddess
 - 27 Hay unit
 - 29 Pinnacle
 - 32 Spots
 - 33 Half a sawbuck
 - 34 Notre Dame's Par-seghian
 - 35 Catch some z's
 - 36 Rink surface
 - 37 — Plaines



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 7 Binary digit
 - 8 Stadium in New York
 - 9 Salad green
 - 10 Took it easy
 - 17 Non-believer
 - 23 Rap's Dr. —
 - 24 Party staple
 - 26 Geologist's concern
 - 27 Split start
 - 28 Saws
 - 30 Threat ender
 - 31 Goes by
 - 33 Penalized
 - 39 "— had it!"
 - 41 French friend



3-22

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

J CBHD WDBLGDR FHDL OCD
 QDBLT OCBO ZCDG FGD'T AJGR
 JT ABRD SU, OCJT RJAIGJTCDT

MDBL. — LFTB UBLIT

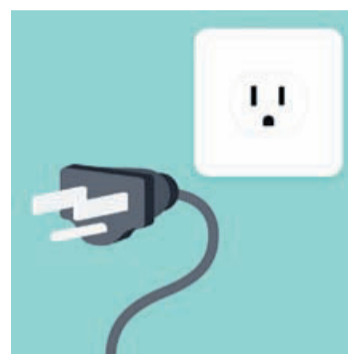
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO GET CLOSURE IS BY ACCEPTING THAT YOU'LL NEVER GET IT. — JOHN MARK GREEN

Cruise ship Schedule: Mar 22 - Mar 24 2024

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|-------|-------|---|
| FRI | 22 | EXPLORA 1 | 08.00 | 18.00 | 1 |
| | | VASCO DE GAMA | 07.00 | 23.00 | 1 |
| | | NORWEGIAN SKY | 06.00 | 20.00 | 1 |
| SUN | 24 | MARELLA DISCOVERY | 08.00 | 20.00 | 1 |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power
 Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply

voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water
 The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours
 Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety
 Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Honey Dolls
 MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE
Beautiful Latin Girls
 Pick-up & Delivery
 Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders
 +297 565-9535
 WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

ARUBA TODAY BONDIA
How to reach us!
 Map showing location of T-DAY and BONDIA in Downtown Aruba, near the Bus terminal and L.G. Smith Boulevard.

Classifieds

The Reef
Eagle beach
3 x Condo
2 BR 2 Bath 2nd floor
Price : \$ 923,650 / \$852 ,600
\$742,100
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle Beach
2 BR 2 Bath 3 rd floor
Price : \$935,226
2 BR 2 bath 4th floor
Price : \$ 982,958.91
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 Bath 4 th floor
Price :\$ 807,805.25
2 BR 2 bath 5 th floor
Price : \$837,128.25
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle Beach
2 BR 2 Bath 6 th floor
Price : \$1,6061.901.78
2 BR 2 Bath 6th floor
Price : \$ 837,128.75
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 Bath 7 th floor
Price : \$ 1,192,626.12
2 BR 2 Bath 7 th floor
Price : \$928,889.46
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

The Reef
Eagle Beach
2 BR 2 Bath 8 th floor
Price :\$ 1,165,755.11
2 BR 2 Bath 8 th floor
Price : \$961,400.59
Call : 011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quinta Beach Resort
Eagle beach
2 Bedroom 2 Bath Week 12
Room # 2002 /2012
Ocean view
Price : \$ 10 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 9 and 10 room #
1329
Price : \$9 K each
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HTTA
Halley Time Travel Aruba
To All Time - Share owners
That are interested in selling
Your Time - Share in Aruba
Contact the experts 37 years
Of doing honest business
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Sero Colorado
Property land ocean view
Two lot of 1875M2 @ \$250 M2
Can sell separate or both
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

New Condo Project
At Nanki at rogers beach
One bedroom and two bedroom
Pre- Construction prices
Starting at \$426,665 one
bedroom
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

New Condo Project
Down Town Ocean view
Casa Playa residence Aruba
One bedroom and Two
bedrooms
Price starting at :\$346,447,50
one bedroom
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Wacamaya Condo
Noord
One bedroom one bath
Fully finished
Price : \$300 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club
Palm beach
Platinum season
2 Bedroom Ocean side
Light house building
Price :\$ 25 K
Call : 011-297-630-130
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Ambassador suites
Eagle beach
1 BR WK 11 # 1329 \$8400
1 BR WK11 # 1326 \$8400
1 BR WK11/12 # 1429 \$8400
each
1 BR WK12 # 1430 \$8400
1 BR WK12 # 1233 \$7200
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Destination Points
Palm Beach
For sale at :\$ 6 a points
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residence
Eagle beach Indigo Tower
3 BR 4 Bath PH 1-2
8th Floor: \$1,255,000
3 BR 4 Bath PH 1-3
8 th floor :\$1, 196,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residence
Eagle Beach Aqaumarine Tower
3 BR 3 bath unit # 221
2 sd floor:\$782,500
2 BR 2 Bath unit # 622
6 th floor :\$ 719,800
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Blue Residence
Eagle beach Torquoise Tower
4 BR 4 Bath TH -4 :\$1,159,650
Ground floor/ Duplex
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Azure Residence
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 Bath unit # 513
5 th floor : \$765,400
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Oceania Residence
Eagle beach
2BR 2 Bath unit # 423
4 th Eagle :\$868,500
1 BR 2 Bath
3 rd Racket club :\$495,000
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Hotel Project
Camacuri
Land 9100m2
160 units
7th floor
Price :\$9 Million US
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Investment opportunity
Selling company with permit
To build 12 commercial space
on a lease land
2600m2 near Eagle Beach and
Gloria building
Price :\$750 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Golf
Eagle beach
1 BR WK # 9 Room # 2118
Studio WK # 9 Room # 2117
22 weeks remaining
Price : 1 BR \$9 K studio \$7 K
Call:011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village golf
Eagle beach
1 BR 2 Bath Birdie 3
WK # 11 room # 2215
22 weeks remaining
Price :\$ 9 K
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Dutch village
Eagle beach
Studio WK # 12 room # 33
30 weeks remaining \$9 K
Studio WK # 15 room # 125
32 weeks remaining \$9 K
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Quinta Beach Resort
Eagle Beach
Town House
2 Bedroom 2 Bath
Week # 9 room # 212
Price : \$ 12 K



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Eagle : Tel.587 9011
San Nicolas:
San Lucas:Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Police | 100 |
| Oranjestad | 527 3140 |
| Noord | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

TAXI SERVICES

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Taxi Tas | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

TRAVEL INFO

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Aruba Airport | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Movie Review: 'Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire' clears a low bar

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

Forty years after "Ghostbusters" and following a string of sequels that never measured up to the 1984 original beginning all the way back with 1989's "Ghostbusters II" it's fair to wonder, well, who else ought we to call? It may be time to, if not give up the ghost entirely, at least give a flip through the ol' rolo-dex.

But as the lackluster 2021 installment, "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" showed, the half life of most film franchises today is an ever-lengthening long tail of diminishing returns. Though the options are many, sucking "Ghostbusters" dry would make a prime exhibit in Hollywood's nostalgia fix.

Still, it's not quite as simple as that. I'm glad for the female-led 2016 "Ghostbusters." Aside from prompting a minor culture war, it assembled the best comic ensemble since the original with Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones and, yes, Chris Hemsworth. And as easy as it might be to label the new one, "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire," another half-hashed retread which it is, a little bit it's also a significant upgrade from "Afterlife,"



This image released by Columbia Pictures shows, from left, Celeste O'Connor, Finn Wolfhard, James Acaster, Logan Kim and Dan Aykroyd in a scene from "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire." Associated Press

which relocated the action to Oklahoma and forgot to pack any comedy. "Frozen Empire," back, thankfully, in New York, is a breezier, more serviceable sequel that has a modest charm as an '80-tinged family adventure.

The innate appeal of "Ghostbusters" had to do with its brash mixing of genres adult-edged comedy with sci-fi toys that summoned the spirit of "Abbott of Costello Meet Frankenstein." When the sequels have gone astray, it's usu-

ally because they get bogged down with solemnity or special effects when all they really need is the it's-the-end-of-the-world-and-I-feel-fine smirk of Bill Murray. I'd forgive bad visual effects a lot sooner than I would bland comic interplay.

"Frozen Empire," though, is organized less around a group of funny people wearing proton packs than it is around a family. The movie more or less opens with the Ectomobile racing down Fifth Avenue with

Gary (Paul Rudd) at the wheel, Callie (Carrie Coon) riding shotgun and her kids Trevor (Finn Wolfhard) and Phoebe (Mckenna Grace) in the back, all in bickering pursuit of a "sewer dragon" apparition.

The cast is much the same as "Afterlife," but the behind-the-scenes talent has been rejiggered. After Jason Reitman took over directing from his father, Ivan Reitman, he here is credited as a producer and writer. Gil Kenan, who co-wrote "Afterlife," directs

"Frozen Empire," which is dedicated to the elder Reitman, who died in 2022.

More than before, you can feel the growing distance from the original "Ghostbusters." Harold Ramis died in 2014 and while Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Ernie Hudson all return, they no longer feel like the axis to this cinematic universe. (Aykroyd, though, gives the movie some soulful quirk as Dr. Raymond Stantz, and Ernie Hudson may be more a potent presence than ever.) Familiar-faced ghosts return, too, in "Frozen Empire," which, like its predecessor, doesn't skimp on the fan service. That instinct to cater to "Ghostbusters" diehards (a kind of ridiculous kind of diehard, if we're being honest) continues to diminish a franchise that recoiled defensively after the 2016 "Ghostbusters."

But if you accept the low-bar aspirations of "Frozen Empire," you may get a pleasant-enough experience out of it. It's a movie that feels almost more like a high production-value TV pilot for an appealing sitcom, with Rudd as the stepfather, than it does a big-screen event on par with the original.

The family has moved into the famed fire station, but trouble abounds. □

Beyoncé will receive the Innovator Award at the 2024 iHeartRadio Music Awards

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Days

after Beyoncé releases her highly anticipated eighth studio album, she'll make

an appearance at the 2024 iHeartRadio Music Awards to receive its innovator award.

Beyoncé will appear at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles to accept the honor during the April 1 ceremony hosted by Ludacris. She's being recognized for her pioneering career: for decades of creative risks and influencing pop culture on a mass scale, as well as last year's groundbreaking Renaissance World Tour.

Ludacris will also perform, joining a previously announced lineup of Justin Timberlake, Green Day, TLC, Jelly Roll, Lainey Wil-

son, and Tate McRae.

Cher will be presented with the iHeartRadio icon award.

Beyoncé's upcoming "Act II: Cowboy Carter" is the follow-up to 2022's acclaimed "Act I: Renaissance."

Last month, the superstar singer became the first Black woman to top Billboard's country music chart after the uptempo country stomp "Texas Hold 'Em" reached No. 1 on the country airplay chart.

This year, Beyoncé scored five iHeartRadio Music Awards nominations, including R&B artist of the year, R&B song of the year

(for "Cuff It,") favorite tour style, best fan army and a new category, favorite on screen, for "Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé."

Taylor Swift leads the nominations with nine, followed closely by Jelly Roll, SZA, and 21 Savage with eight. Behind them is Olivia Rodrigo, who received seven. Fans can vote in several categories including best lyrics, best music video, best fan army, social star award, favorite tour photographer, TikTok bop of the year, favorite tour style and two new fields: favorite on screen and favorite debut album. □



Beyoncé performs at the Wolstein Center, Nov. 4, 2016, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Associated Press

Injured NFL retirees who say the league's disability plan is a sham can proceed to trial

By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A lawsuit accusing the NFL's disability plan of violating its duty to retired players by routinely denying valid injury claims can proceed to trial on most counts, a federal judge in Maryland has ruled.

The lawsuit, filed last year, accuses officials who oversee the program of bad faith and flagrant violations of federal law. U.S. District Judge Julie R. Rubin said the suit can move forward against the board, but not against Commissioner Roger Goodell or trustees individually, as they were not accused of wrongdoing.

Lawyers for the 10 retired players who signed onto the potential class action called the ruling Wednesday "a huge win" for those subject to what they called "systemic injustice."

"We look forward to continuing to shine a light on this betrayal by the NFL, holding the plan fully accountable and correcting this broken system so it is fair for players moving forward," lawyers Chris Seeger and Sam Katz said in a statement on Thursday. The board has six voting members while Goodell



Cleveland Browns running back Willis McGahee is helped from the field after getting injured in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots on Dec. 8, 2013, in Foxborough, Mass.

serves as the non-voting chairperson. An NFL spokesman did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Seeger is no stranger to battles with the league he also represented players in concussion cases that led to a settlement that's topped \$1 billion in payouts.

The NFL has said it expected annual payouts for the disability plan to reach

\$330 million last year.

The program grew out of the 2011 collective-bargaining agreement between the players and the union, and was hailed as a way to help ailing former players. A successful claim can lead to payments of \$65,000 to \$265,000, but plaintiffs lawyers say few retirees see the top amount.

The former players say they were denied benefits even

though their time in the league left them with lingering physical or cognitive injuries that make their lives difficult and sometimes excruciating.

The lawsuit also alleges that the doctors who examine players are more likely to get repeat referrals from the program if they deny claims. One neuropsychologist who was paid more than \$800,000 examined 29

former players and denied their claims in every case, according to the lawyers.

The judge ruled that the lawsuit can now move forward to discovery, when the two sides exchange evidence. She said the plaintiffs have plausibly alleged that the board disregarded the plan's stated goals, failed to consider the entire record in evaluating claims and failed to offer reasoned decisions.

The plaintiffs include Willis McGahee, a first-round pick in 2003 who spent 11 seasons in the NFL including seven seasons with the New York Jets. McGahee said he's had more than a dozen surgeries for injuries he suffered as a running back, has dark moods and struggles to play with his young sons, but his claim was denied.

Eric Smith, a longtime safety for the New York Jets, is another plaintiff. He said his brain injuries from football still cause blackouts and violent episodes.

"There were times I would blackout and wake up ... and I'm bleeding, there are holes in the wall. My wife and kids are crying," Smith said on a videoconference call last year. "I went down a dark path." □

Longtime NHL critic and diversity advocate Akim Aliu gets a tryout with the Sharks' AHL team

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Hockey Writer

After years of feeling alienated by the NHL and campaigning to diversify the sport, Akim Aliu is getting another shot at playing pro hockey, this time with the San Jose Sharks' minor league affiliate.

Sharks general manager Mike Grier informed reporters at the league's GM meetings in Florida on Wednesday that he offered Aliu a tryout contract with the American Hockey League's San Jose Barracuda for the remainder of the season.

The 34-year-old Aliu, who

plays defense, confirmed the tryout by text to The Associated Press, saying his flight had just landed in California.

"It's huge. I've prided myself on always doing things the right way morally, and never wavered through all the dark times," Aliu wrote. "Extremely blessed to get this opportunity."

Aliu last played professionally at the end of the 2019-20 season with Litvinov HC in the Czech Republic's top league and finished with one goal and two assists in six games.

He was born in Nigeria to mixed-race parents and

then lived in Ukraine before his family eventually settled in the Toronto suburbs, where he picked up hockey.

Aliu is a journeyman minor leaguer who is best known for confronting racism in hockey.

He came to prominence by making two life-altering social media posts in November 2019, which led to Bill Peters' abrupt resignation as coach of the Calgary Flames.

Aliu revealed Peters bullied and directed racist slurs at him when the two were in the minors a decade earlier. □



Calgary Flames center Akim Aliu (29) controls the puck against Nashville Predators defenseman Victor Bartley (64) during the first period of an NHL hockey game April 23, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Yamamoto chased after 1st inning of debut as Padres beat Dodgers 15-11 for 2-game South Korea split

By **STEPHEN WADE**
AP Sports Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After chasing Yoshinobu Yamamoto from his major league debut after one inning and scoring their most runs ever against the Los Angeles Dodgers, San Diego's Xander Bogaerts was sad to leave the Gocheok Sky Dome.

"We got to come here more," he said.

Jake Cronenworth tied a career high with four hits and had four RBIs as the Padres outlasted the Dodgers 15-11 on Thursday night after Los Angeles fired Shohei Ohtani's interpreter following allegations of illegal gambling.

Interpreter Ipppei Mizuhara was let go from the team Wednesday following reports from the Los Angeles Times and ESPN about alleged ties to an illegal bookmaker.

Ohtani hit three deep fly-outs on a 1-for-5 night, including a sacrifice fly, and



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres at the Gocheok Sky Dome in Seoul, South Korea Thursday, March 21, 2024, in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

was 3 for 10 with two RBIs in the series. He did not speak with reporters.

"I hope Sho is good, but you know, at the end of the day we have to make sure

we take care of our jobs," said Mookie Betts, who had six RBIs along with four hits that included the first home run of the major league season. "No matter what

cards we're dealt, we better go play them."

Yamamoto and Dodgers manager Dave Roberts insisted Mizuhara's situation didn't contribute to the de-

feat.

"I feel regret that I just couldn't keep the team in the game from the get-go, so I do feel the responsibility for it," Yamamoto said through a translator. "I just got to get ready for the next outing."

San Diego gained a split in the opening two-game series, Major League Baseball's first games in South Korea. After the Dodgers rebounded from a 9-2 deficit and closed to 12-11, Manny Machado hit a three-run homer in the ninth off J.P. Feyereisen.

San Diego outit the Dodgers 17-16, and Los Angeles made three errors that led to a pair of unearned runs. Luis Campusano had three hits and 20-year-old center fielder Jackson Merrill got his first two major league hits.

Yamamoto (0-1) signed a \$325 million, 12-year contract, a record amount for a pitcher that created high expectations. □

Kevin Durant continues climb up NBA career scoring list, passes Shaq for eighth place



Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant dunks against the Philadelphia 76ers during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BRANDT**
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Kevin Durant continued to climb the NBA's list of career scoring leaders, passing big man Shaquille O'Neal for No. 8 with 22 points in the Phoenix Suns' 115-102 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

The 35-year-old Durant now has 28,610 career points. He's passed multiple greats on the scoring list this season, including Hakeem Olajuwon, Elvin Hayes, Moses Malone and Carmelo Anthony.

Durant, a 14-time All-Star, shows no signs of slowing down. The 6-foot-11 forward is scoring nearly 28 points per game in his 17th season, which is just above his career average. "I'm grateful to be in the category with

some of the greatest," Durant said. "We all know what Shaq meant to the game of basketball. So to be up there with him is a major, major honor in my opinion."

Durant will probably need at least another year before he hits No. 7 on the list. That spot is occupied by Wilt Chamberlain, who had 31,419 career points. The Suns played a video message from O'Neal during a timeout on Wednesday, congratulating Durant on passing him. "You know it doesn't stop here," O'Neal said. Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James is the only player in NBA history to score at least 40,000 points, passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar earlier this season. Karl Malone occupies the No. 3 spot, followed by Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, Dirk Nowitzki and Chamberlain. □